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something effective has been done. The pressure of public sentiment from all quarters of the world would be so great that they would be compelled to go forward, even if they desired to halt. It is certain also that all the leading nations will hasten to take part in the effort to solve the problem. Instead of being the most difficult to bring into an agreement, as the British correspondent of the Berlin paper says, Japan and the United States would probably be among the most eager to have the question quickly studied and disposed of. At any rate, no Administration at Washington, after the recent signal defeat of the four-battleship program in both Houses of Congress, could possibly hold aloof from such an investigation. The people of this country, as of every other, have tolerated the burdensome and senseless rivalry of armaments about as long as they will. If the British government is seriously contemplating the step of which the Berlin *Tageblatt* speaks, it will meet the ever-deepening wish of the civilized peoples of the world and have their practically unanimous support.

The Contagion of Militarism.

One of the worst aspects of current militarism is its contagiousness. Many years ago, noticing the symptoms of the day, we ventured to prophesy that the militarism of Europe, if not checked, would inevitably extend itself in some form to the other portions of the world. This forecast has been amply justified by the rapid growth of our navy and the enlargement of our army, and by the growth of the Japanese army and navy. It is generally known at the present time that a Chinese army is being gradually evolved under the direction of European officers, and it is not at all improbable that within ten years, or twenty at the farthest, a Chinese army will be created that will be a formidable organization with which to deal.

Just now comes the information that Brazil is at once to enter upon the building of a navy of formidable proportions. Dr. Alves, ex-President of Brazil and twice Finance Minister of the Republic, has just announced in Berlin that the Brazilian government has placed orders in England for a total of thirty warships, of which four are to be Dreadnaughts and the remaining twenty-six, cruisers, torpedo boats and gun boats of various grades. The ostensible purpose of the Brazilian government in undertaking this ambitious naval program is, according to Dr. Alves, to insure full adequacy to the national defense.

To an outsider there does not seem to be a shadow of a reason why Brazil should build a single war vessel for her national defense. She has no enemies, and no nation has the remotest intention of attacking her. Her two most powerful neighbors, Chile and the Argentine Republic, are already practically disarmed. Again, the Monroe Doctrine of our own country makes it doubly improbable that any European nation would

take the risk of attacking her. It is difficult, therefore, from the point of view of national defense, to find any real reason for the step which she is taking.

It is probable, though she would be slow to confess it, that her ambition to appear as a great nation is really at the root of the matter. Somehow the idea still largely prevails that no nation can be really great without having a big army or a big navy, or both, and thus be able to appear before the world as a formidable fighting institution. It is doubtless this mischievous idea, which still disgraces our civilization, that has taken hold of Brazil, and that is chiefly responsible for this wholly needless and expensive naval program which she is just entering upon. The cruise of our great battle fleet has unquestionably had its effect also, and caused the Brazilian authorities to hurry forward their naval program. It is not unlikely, furthermore, that the boasted Monroe Doctrine itself is in part the cause of her determination. She chafes under the thought of having to stand before the world as in any sense under the protection of a more mighty nation.

It is deplorable that the militarism of the time cannot be gotten rid of before it has extended itself to these nations of the East and of South America, and inflicted its enormous burdens upon populations which need all their resources, and more, to secure a reasonable economic, social and educational development. The great nations which at The Hague stood in the way of limitation of armaments have taken upon themselves a responsibility the seriousness of which they will some day realize to their grief. It seems almost certain that, unless an agreement for limitation can be speedily reached, Chile and the Argentine Republic will, when their present treaty expires, enter again upon the creation of armies and navies; and, if they do this, they will do it with a feverishness and haste never before known by them.

Under these circumstances it is the imperative duty of all the friends of international good understanding and peace to lift their voices continually against this gigantic evil which is thus overshadowing the world, exhausting its resources and crippling its true development. It is an evil that must go in time, and if by its early suppression the nations hitherto not much affected by it can be saved from its toils, the blessing which will thus come to these new and developing nations will be greater than the most sanguine can possibly estimate.

The British International Hospitality Fund.

The announcement of the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, that the government has decided to set apart yearly a certain sum for the promotion of hospitality, in some regular and adequate way, to foreign visitors, is worthy of much more public interest